



Astronomy News
October 4, 2024

[Picture of the Day](#)



EARTH / MOON

Moonrise at Chimney Rock: Live and Online Events on October 21st - From Erica Ellingson

A unique opportunity to witness a Major Lunar Standstill Moonrise will take place on October 21, 2024, at Chimney Rock National Monument (CRNM), near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The moon at its northernmost declination will rise between two tall stone pillars, events that occur only every 18.6 years. This phenomenon may have been observed by the ancestral Puebloan people who inhabited the area for thousands of years, and who built a multi-storied “great house” on a precipitous ridge at the prime observing location a thousand years ago. Tree ring dating indicates the structure was renovated at 18 year intervals linked to the standstill cycle. Given the small and precarious viewing area, CRNM will offer a moonrise celebration at an accessible outdoor amphitheater by the visitor center. The evening program will include scientific and cultural speakers and a view of the moonrise between the pinnacles, broadcast live from the upper mesa at approximately 10 p.m., MDT. Seating is limited and tickets are only available as a Chimney Rock National Monument “tour” via www.recreation.gov. For more information see <https://www.chimneyrockco.org/puebloan-resources/lunar-standstill/>, or contact erica.ellingson@colorado.edu.

For those who cannot visit the Monument in person, event partners at Griffith Observatory will livecast a short presentation about Chimney Rock and the moonrise, starting at 9:45 p.m., MDT. The livestream can be accessed on the

night of the event via: <https://griffithobservatory.org/event/major-standstill-northern-moonrise-at-chimney-rock-colorado-oct-24>

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